

MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
TGS&A COMMITTEE

September 21, 2009

Call to Order: There being quorum with nine out of 12 members present, the Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: John T. Whitehead (Chairman), Simon Y. Balian, Angus James Cameron, Eugene F. Coyle, Frank B. Kemp, Thomas W. Moore, S. Lloyd Plehaty, Samuel V. Schoonmaker, and Sarah C. Seelye.

Absent: Charles W. Grimes, Bohdana Puzyk, and John O. Wolcott.

Agenda: The Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Minutes: The Minutes of the April 6, 2009 meeting were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

Ordinance on Waterways: The Chairman explained the background of the proposed amendments to the ordinance and that the Board of Selectmen had voted in favor several months ago. Following some discussion of the issues and further clarification of some provisions, upon motion made and duly seconded, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the RTM the approval of this ordinance.

Update on Dog Control Ordinance: The Chairman informed the Committee that the Dog Control Ordinance is not on the RTM Agenda. Moreover, Town counsel has given written opinion that the Parks and Recreation Commission has “exclusive care and management” of the town parks and therefore that Commission has to adopt the ordinance as a regulation to be effective within the Parks. Their regulations become effective on October 1 following their adoption.

The members discussed the need for some more communication among the RTM Committees with jurisdiction, especially the Public Safety Committee which has primary jurisdiction and has not yet considered this ordinance. The members also recalled that earlier in the spring the three committees and town officials had a joint meeting with no tangible results. At that meeting Parks and Recreation Commission Chair stated that they will appoint a Committee to look into the matter and no action has been taken so far.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted to table this issue indefinitely until the lead Committees and the Parks and Recreation Commission takes some action.

Health Benefits Trusts: In order to conform to the new accounting standard GASB 45, the Town has to fund the retiree medical plan. The Board of Finance has approved the funding levels and will recommend its adoption by the RTM. In order to make the funding of the benefit more advantageous to both the Town and the beneficiaries, the Town is setting up two Trusts to hold and invest the funds in a manner similar to the Pension Plans. One Trust is to hold the police retiree health benefits and one Trust for the non-police town employees. The RTM Finance and Budget Committee has already voted favorably for the plan.

Considering that the proposal creates two trusts parallel to the existing two pension plans, a motion was made and duly seconded to **amend** paragraph “C” of the proposal to read as follows:

The trust for funding current and future post employment health care provisions for the eligible retired employees shall be administered by the pension board described in sec. 50-52 of the Darien Code of Ordinances. The trust for the purpose of funding current and future post employment health care benefits for retired police officers shall be administered by the pension board described in sec. 50-252 of the Darien Code of Ordinances.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the amendment was unanimously approved.

The Committee engaged in an extensive discussion on various matters related to the proposed Trusts including administrations, investment and audits of the funds. The Committee concluded that the action before it was limited to the creation of the trusts and not any operational, administration, or investment matters pertaining to the trusts.

Thereupon, upon motion made and duly seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the proposal as amended and asked the Chairman to recommend to the RTM to approve the proposal **as amended**.

Other Business: The Chairman reported on his various communications with Town staff and counsel on matters that are in progress or planned for consideration by the Committee. Pursuant to Committee request, the Chairman will follow up on a previous proposal and work done to remove all specified amounts of fees from the Ordinance into one fee schedule and report at the next meeting.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:00 pm.

Recorded by:
/S/ Simon Y. Balian
Clerk